

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-25 are allowed.
2. This Notice of Allowance is in response to the Board of Patent and Appeals Decision filed 19 July 2011.
3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a method and system of reporting on the quality of repair work performed on an article.

The Board of Patent and Appeals Decision reversed the Examiner's rejection because the closest prior art, Li (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0072808) and Kirkwood et al. (Kirkwood) (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0182181) fails to teach either singularly or in combination a method and system of reporting on the quality of repair work performed on an article as recited in independent Claims 1 and 13. Li is directed to a vehicle warranty and repair computer-networked system. Kirkwood is directed to on-line benchmarking. Although Li and Kirkwood generally teach on-line performance analysis of a business entity, the combination of Li and Kirkwood fails to teach or suggest, "sorting the quality data in the database utilizing said repair estimate factor for producing a report of said quality data", as recited in independent Claims 1 and 13.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS MANSFIELD whose telephone number is (571)270-1904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-6 pm, alt. Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on 571-272-6782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

7 October 2011

/Thomas Mansfield/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624